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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

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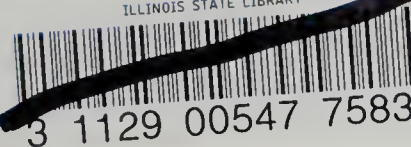


ILLINOIS



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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From the Governor

To the Citizens of Illinois:

I am pleased to join Director Frech in submitting the Department of Conservation Annual Report for 1988. Recreational opportunities, lodge renovations, and new programs are highlighted in this report along with the Department's many other accomplishments during 1988.

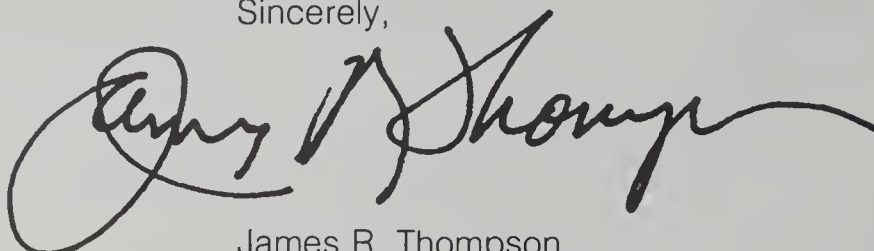
A new program conceived by Director Frech this year is one of which I am extremely proud. The "Kids for Conservation" program is geared toward teaching Illinois children about the need for preserving and protecting the state's natural resources. With a successful membership drive underway, it is evident that the people of Illinois agree there is the need to teach our young Illinoisans about conservation early in their lives in order to ensure that they will be better stewards of the natural environment as adults.

Major renovations of our present lodge system occurred this year. These projects include Giant City, Pere Marquette, Starved Rock, and White Pines state parks. These projects were accomplished by the Department for the benefit of all our citizens; providing excellent recreational opportunities through the use of "Build Illinois" Funds.

The construction of the North Point Marina and the Lake Shelbyville resort began in 1988. The development of these two areas demonstrates our commitment to provide excellent resources for anglers and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

With hunters and anglers contributing more than \$650 million to the state's economy, a sound conservation program pays dividends in terms of the state's economic growth. This administration's obligation to see that our renewable natural resources are used wisely and our concern for economic growth, I believe, are reflected in this report.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James R. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

James R. Thompson
Governor



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From the Director and Assistant Director



Mark Frech



Kathy Selcke

To Conservationists, Members of
the General Assembly and Citizens of Illinois:

More than thirty years ago, environmentalist Rachel Carson forewarned of the dangers of taking our natural resources for granted in her book **Silent Spring**. We conservationists have taken her warning to heart.

The Department of Conservation's objective is to conserve and preserve our natural resources through careful management and wise use. At the same time, we seek to provide the public with quality outdoor recreational experiences that utilize those natural resources wisely and heightens public awareness of their precious value. Through Conservation Department programs and activities that meet these objectives, local economies, as well as the economy of the entire State of Illinois, are often enhanced.

The realization of our "Build Illinois" dreams with the major renovation and expansion of our historic lodges, major progress on the new lodge at Eagle Creek State park and major progress at our North Point Marina made 1988 a landmark year. Highly qualified professional operators now manage our state park lodges, adding to the visiting public's enjoyment of these facilities. We also began an exciting, innovative and long overdue marketing program to increase public awareness of these new recreational opportunities provided by the Department of Conservation.

Also in 1988 Kids for Conservation, a conservation education effort to reach the youth of Illinois, was conceived and is progressing into a full blown education program in our schools. The year also was a landmark in terms of last summer's severe drought and the Department's efforts to minimize major habitat loss, prevent forest fires and reduce negative impacts on fish and wildlife populations.

With approximately 350 sites encompassing nearly 374,000 acres, the Department of Conservation hosts more than 34 million visitors annually who depend upon us to provide a safe and secure environment. We take this responsibility seriously.

In order to meet the demands upon our land, however, we need the support of the General Assembly and every citizen of this state. We offer this annual report as a reflection of our efforts to meet the needs of our people and our land, and to provide the reader with information on the extensive services and programs the Department offers.

Sincerely,

Mark Frech, Director

Kathy Selcke, Assistant Director



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Introduction

The hunter who seeks to bag his limit of pheasant or quail; the family looking for a place to have a summertime picnic; the disabled angler seeking facilities that will allow him to comfortably fish; the vacationer looking for a place to get away for the weekend; or the birding enthusiast who wants to add a black crowned night heron or American bittern to his list — each of these persons expects the Department of Conservation to address his or her needs.

The diversity of Conservation's responsibilities are astonishingly wide, and they continue to grow with each passing year, as populations grow and the push for urbanization and development places greater pressures upon dwindling natural resources.

The objectives of the Department of Conservation are twofold: First, to conserve, preserve and manage the renewable natural resources of Illinois; and secondly, to provide high quality outdoor recreation experiences for the diverse populace of the state.

In addressing the first objective, the Department undertook a most important program during 1988. A program that started with little more than an idea of reaching the youth of this state with a conservation education message is now becoming a reality.

This shoestring effort called "Kids for Conservation" has developed into one of the most important programs the Department of Conservation has ever undertaken. After all, the children are our future. As a society, we need to take steps now to ensure these children will have a respect and appreciation for our natural resources when they take their places in society as adults.

In meeting the second objective, DOC's list of accomplishments and successes is a long one, with great progress being made with the "Build Illinois" projects. In 1988 the renovation and expansion projects were completed on the lodges at Pere Marquette and Giant City state parks; construction was completed on cabins at White Pines and Giant City state parks; and construction began on the Eagle Creek Resort complex on Lake Shelbyville. The renovation of the Starved Rock State Park lodge neared completion while work progressed on the resort and conference center at Illinois Beach State Park. Construction began on the massive North Point Marina on Lake Michigan and a newly constructed marina on the Ohio River at Golconda opened. Each of the facilities will have important economic impacts on the areas in which they are located and will help stimulate further growth of the state's overall economy.

During 1988, some important steps were taken by the Department in building toward the future. Ground was broken for the James C. Helfrich Propagation Center near Lincoln. Under the banner of Partners for Conservation, the Department held its first ever Lobby Day in Springfield. And, for the first time, the Department celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day, bringing outdoor groups together to showcase Illinois sportsmens' contributions to natural resource conservation at five Department-sponsored events held around the state.

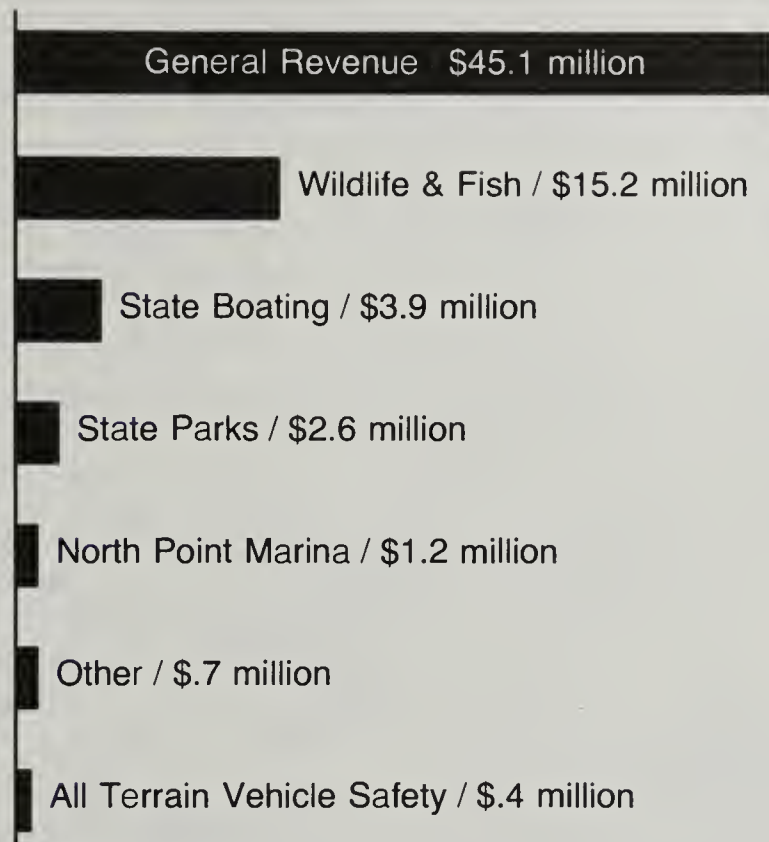
All of this effort, work and dedication to our natural resources takes a financial commitment from the lawmakers of Illinois to support conservation programs. The General Assembly has been asked to approve a budget of \$120 million for conservation in Illinois for fiscal 1990, with \$45.1 million earmarked for general revenue funds to support DOC operations.

The accompanying graph clearly shows the Department's proposed budget for fiscal 1990. General Revenue provides the vast amount of operational dollars. Land Management is by far the area where the most money is spent.

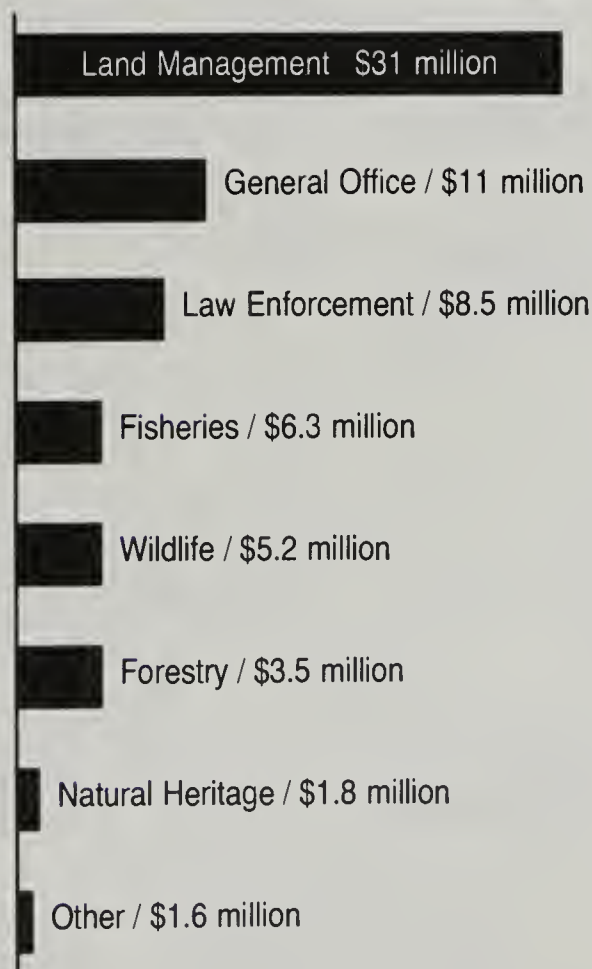
Department of Conservation Fiscal 1990 Operations Budget

Total \$69.2 million

Sources of Financing



Purposes



The Department is dedicating \$2.2 million of new money to expand or open facilities at 40 state management recreation and conservation sites, including 10 sites previously closed.

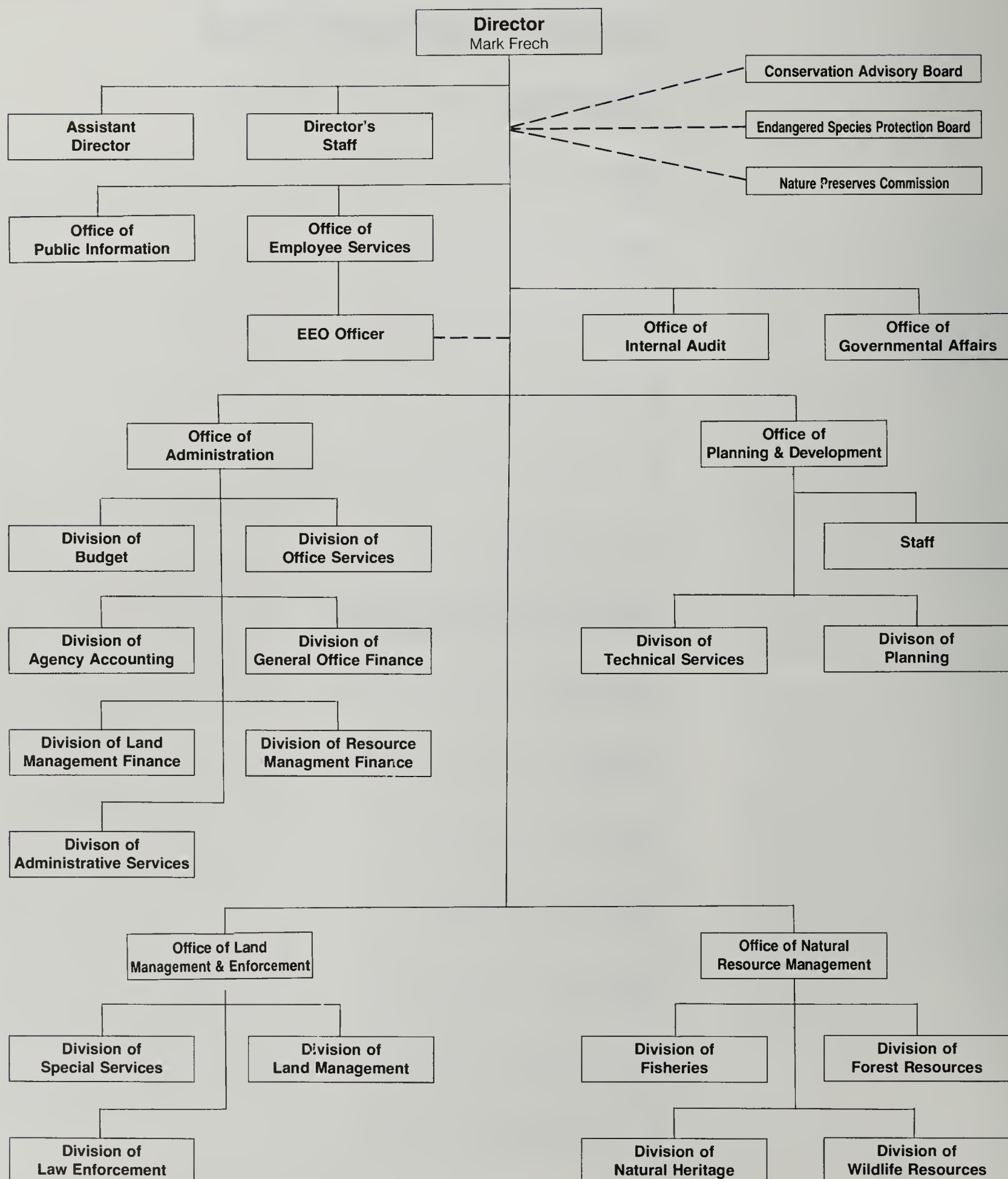
The \$120 million request is actually down from a year ago due to reductions in grants and capitol improvement funding levels.

Other income sources such as license sales and fees have remained relatively constant but the working cash balances of those funds have been drawn down to support inflationary pressures. So, without an increase in general revenue dollars, the Department would be forced to either increase fees or cut programs.

The Department of Conservation is proud of its efforts and the progress made over the past several years. Its goal is to continue to protect, preserve and manage our natural resources by every possible means, and to provide maximum public exposure to the Department of Conservation and its services.

How the Department of Conservation is striving to accomplish these goals is the subject of this report.

Department Organization



DOC Regional Offices

REGION I
2612 Locust Street
Sterling, IL 61081
Phone: (815) 625-2968

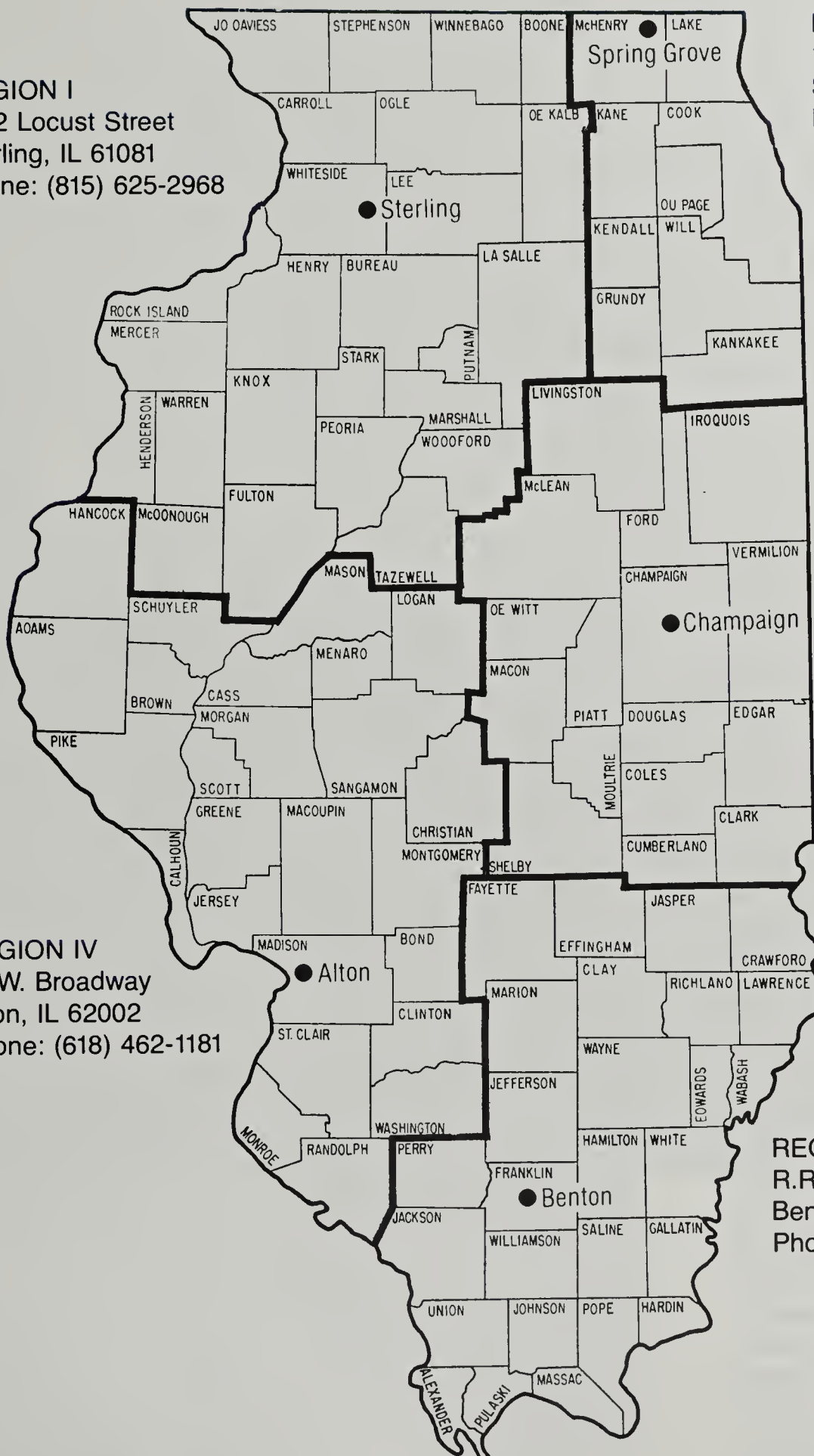
REGION II
110 James Road
Spring Grove, IL 60081
Phone: (815) 675-2385

CHICAGO OFFICE
State of Illinois Center
100 West Randolph
Suite 4-300
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 917-2070

REGION III
8 Henson Place
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: (217) 333-5773

REGION IV
34 W. Broadway
Alton, IL 62002
Phone: (618) 462-1181

REGION V
R.R. # 4
Benton, IL 62812
Phone: (618) 435-8138

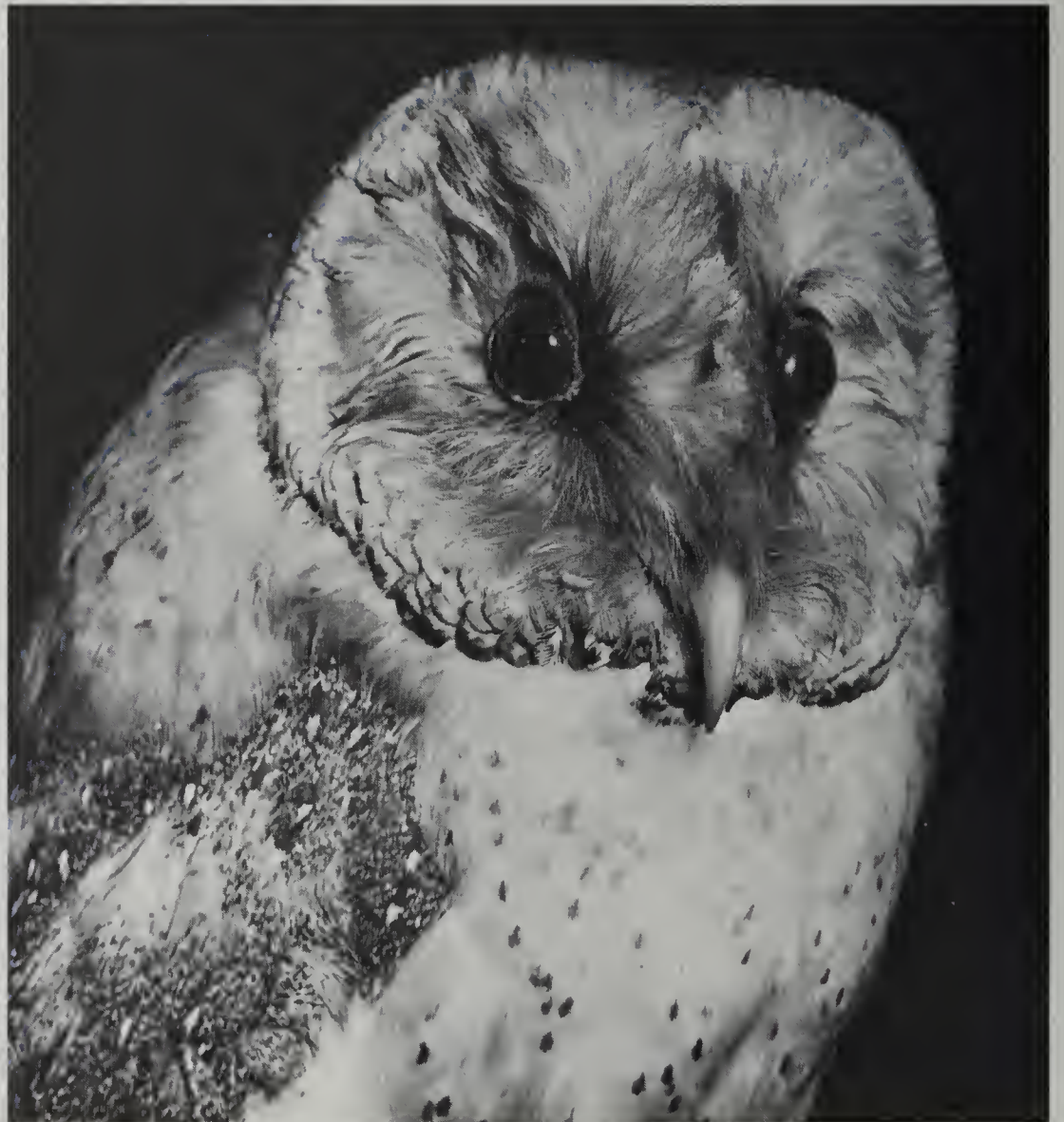


Advisory Boards and Commissions

The Department of Conservation relies on several statutory boards and commissions that act in an advisory or decision-making capacity to direct the programs and policies of the Department. These boards, comprised of experts and laymen, help keep the Department in touch with the needs of Illinois citizens.

Virtually every program of the Department has some sort of citizens advisory group to maximize its effectiveness. These volunteers contribute their time and expertise without compensation, and keep the Department of Conservation attuned to the needs of the resource and the public.

The barn owl, an endangered species in Illinois, is one of the species that benefits from the activities of the Endangered Species Protection Board. In addition to the Endangered Species Protection Board, activities of the Department of Conservation are monitored by an 11-member Conservation Advisory Board and the nine-member Nature Preserves Commission. Staffed by citizens and professionals from throughout the states, these panels provide a measure of public input into the programs and policies of the Conservation Department.





Executive Office

The Executive Office is the guiding force behind all Department programs and activities. The Director meets regularly with his management team to ensure that the activities of the agency's programs are coordinated and integrated with one another. This ensures that all Department efforts conform to policy, and are directed at achieving the Department's goals and objectives with the greatest degree of efficiency and with maximum utilization of the resources the agency has available.

In 1988, the Executive Office was responsible for the conception of the Kids for Conservation program. Director Mark Frech announced the Kids for Conservation program as a new public/private program to teach Illinois children about the need for preserving and protecting the state's natural resources.

This program was designed to meet the critical need for educating young Illinoisans about our natural resources early in their lives in order to ensure they will be better stewards of the environment as adults. Kids for Conservation is a "fun" way for kids to learn about conservation and it's an important step toward conserving our renewable natural resources for future generations.

In addition to reaching young people with the conservation message, Kids for Conservation is an effective way of getting conservation information to the parents of children who are members. The educational material developed for Kids for Conservation features outdoor activities involving both kids and parents.

Kids for Conservation has the potential for becoming a full-fledged conservation education program for young Illinoisans. The success of this program relies on a strong commitment from the private sector to enable DOC to expand Kids for Conservation to include special events throughout the state, and to work with the State Board of Education to develop programs to implement conservation education in the classrooms.

The Executive Office includes several Department programs that provide agency-wide services to other areas within the Department including: Offices of Public Information, Internal Audit Division, Employee Services, and Governmental Affairs.

The agency's Office of Public Information provides information to the media and public regarding Department policies and programs and produces the Department's official magazine, "Outdoor Highlights," a 24-page, twice-monthly publication now distributed to more than 40,000 subscribers. Additionally, the office is responsible for numerous special projects, including coordination of the state's Free Fishing Days observance and coordinating contests to select art for the state's Salmon Stamp and Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp.

During 1988, the Print Media Section produced approximately 200 statewide and local press releases for distribution to newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations. Additionally, this section continued to coordinate and monitor the Department's overall printing program, reviewing printing projects for graphic quality and compliance with statutory requirements.



Kids for Conservation, a new educational outreach program established by the Conservation Department in 1988, signed up more than 40,000 youngsters in its first six months. The program seeks to emphasize to young Illinoisans the importance of natural resource conservation and management.

The Electronic Media Section produces three weekly radio programs that are carried on more than 120 radio stations in Illinois and surrounding states and provides approximately 50 news updates and fishing reports for the toll-free information line. This television/radio production section produces television and radio programming and commercial spots that reach most of Illinois' eleven million citizens. Television spots air in all of Illinois' media markets, reaching millions of viewers with a visual conservation message. In-house videos are also produced for agency use.

The Office's Special Events Section handles the Department's merchandising efforts, offering books, t-shirts and other items promoting the conservation message at the Springfield and DuQuoin State Fairs, as well as other conservation-related events.

During 1988, Special Events offered a new line of sportswear apparel which was designed exclusively for DOC to promote the conservation message. T-shirts and sweatshirts featuring anatomically and botanically correct state symbols are now available to the public.

Some of the events which are coordinated through Special Events and attended by thousands of visitors each year are: Rock Cut Winter Carnival, Rock Cut State Park; Old Settler Days, Red Hills State Park; Bicycle Ride, Gebhard Woods; Sunshine Jamboree, Kickapoo State Park; Silver Bullet Triathlon, Moraine View State Park; Turn of the Century Celebration, Starved Rock State Park; and, Annual Fort Massac Encampment, Fort Massac State Park.

These efforts not only generate a portion of the revenue for the state's Wildlife and Fish Fund, but also serve to keep the conservation message in the public eye.

The Office of Internal Audit is responsible for a broad, comprehensive, independent program of audits of Department activities required by the "Internal Audit Act." These audits identify inadequacies in controls and procedures of the Department relating to the obligation, expenditure, receipt or use of public funds, and provide analyses of existing operations in order to make recommendations leading to reduced operating costs, improved services and greater efficiency and effectiveness.

To fulfill this role, Office staff conduct audits as required by law and professional standards, and follow-up on recommendations in internal and external audit reports to determine if appropriate actions have been taken.

The Division of Employee Services provides a variety of services for the approximately 1,260 permanent employees and an average of 175 seasonal employees of the Department of Conservation. The division provides a centralized source of information about personnel, labor relations, equal employment opportunities, employee assistance, recruitment, timekeeping and training.

The Personnel Section is responsible for maintaining agency personnel files, processing various personnel transactions and scheduling job audits. Agency coordination of the State Retirement System and the Deferred Compensation Program also is provided.

The Labor Relations Section is responsible for administering provisions of seven labor contracts/agreements, representing the Department at labor negotiations and grievance hearings, and training Department of Conservation managers and supervisors.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Section prepares and implements the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan. The Plan is designed to ensure equal treatment and opportunity for all persons. Discrimination complaints are filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer (EEOO). The EEOO also serves in an advisory capacity to the Section 504 Coordinator, and requests for reasonable accommodation of disabled individuals in the employment process are handled by this section.

The Recruitment Section provides informational assistance and guidance in employment and promotion to both Department of Conservation employees and interested applicants.

Through the Timekeeping Section, policy, procedures and training are developed and implemented on an agency-wide basis.

The Training Section's focus is to provide technical training to Department of Conservation staff on various programs such as workmen's compensation and merit compensation.

The Governmental Affairs Unit is responsible for the Department's state and federal legislative activities, administrative rules and legal activities. During the 85th General Assembly, the Department of Conservation pursued aggressive legislation to assist the various interest groups in changing and enforcing the numerous laws administered by DOC. During the General Assembly's legislative session, members of the Governmental Affairs Unit attend legislative committees, testify before committees, and work with legislators and their staffs to inform them of Conservation positions and budgetary needs. The Governmental Affairs Unit analyzed and developed issue papers or position statements on more than 250 individual bills which in some way impacted the Department of Conservation and the natural resources of Illinois.

On the federal level, the Governmental Affairs staff is responsible for coordinating the Department's position on federal activities affecting natural resources and outdoor recreation issues. Staff members provide information on issues and policy recommendations to Governor Thompson's Washington Office to ensure that the State of Illinois' interests are well represented on the federal level.

The Governmental Affairs Unit also contains the legal staff who advise and assist the Director and Department staff regarding litigation, contracts, legislation and other legal matters. The staff also promulgates agency rules pursuant to the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. The staff coordinates agency involvement in litigation, including cases before the Court of Claims where the agency is represented by the Illinois Attorney General.



Office of Administration

The Department's Office of Administration is responsible for the agency's budgeting and accounting procedures, and controls the office services section which handles office supplies, mail services and photo-copying services for the agency. This office also oversees the Administrative Services Division which handles the data processing and licensing and permits program. Additionally, this office is responsible for the general office, resource management and land management finance divisions.

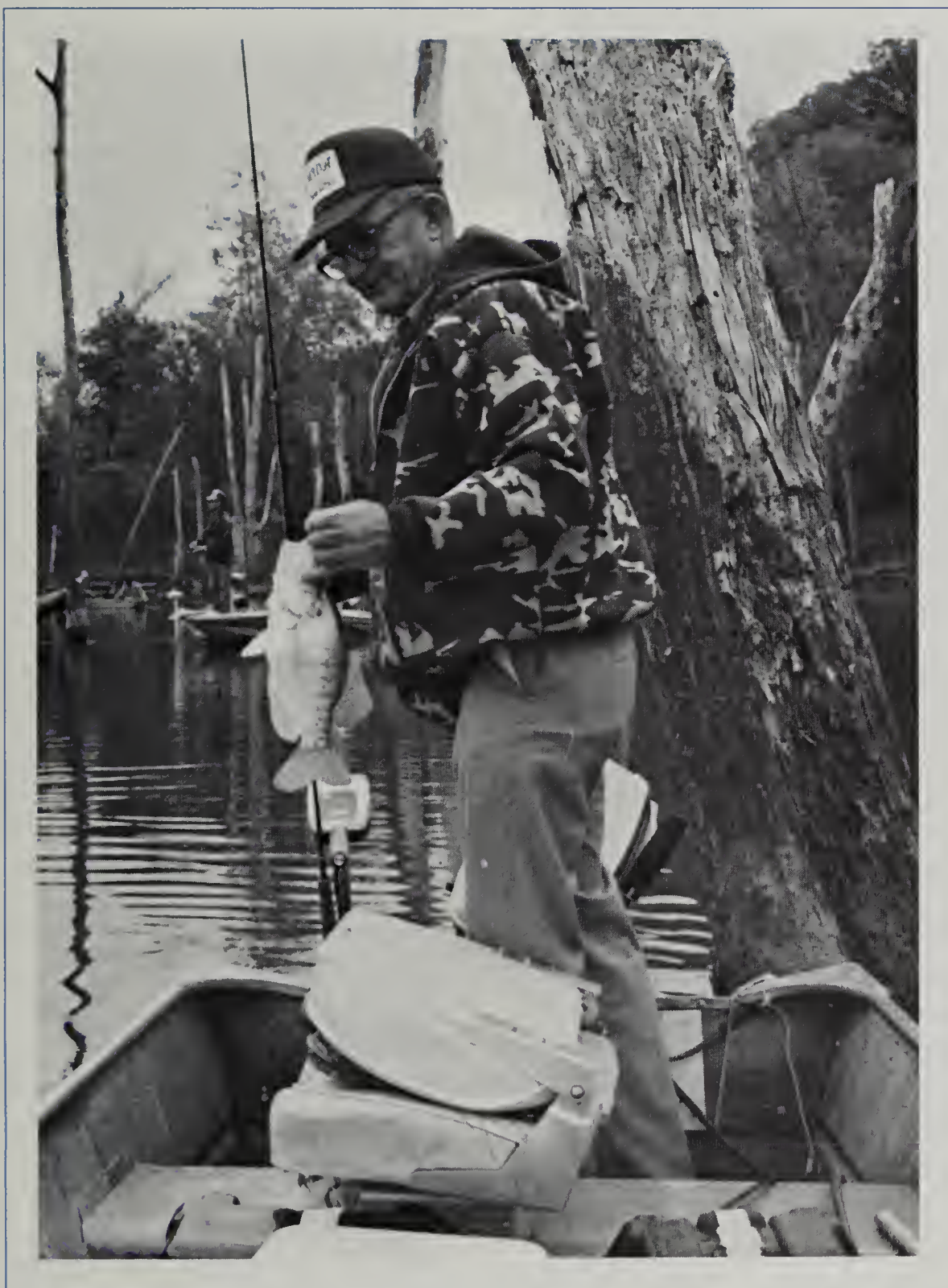
The Division of Budget analysts prepare the Department budget requests for submission to the Governor and General Assembly. In fiscal year 1988, the General Assembly approved a \$142.8 million budget for DOC, including approximately \$59 million for operations, \$37 million for grants and \$47 million for permanent improvements. About \$29 million of the budget was represented by "Build Illinois" funds allotted to the Department.

The Division of Office Services includes department-wide mail services, photo-copying services and procuring and distributing office supplies. By processing mail in one location and by centralizing office supply functions, the Department is able to realize significant savings on postage expenses and on the cost of office supplies.

The Division of Administrative Services is responsible for issuing all licenses and permits, as well as registering and titling for snowmobiles and watercraft.

The Data Processing Section maintains existing computer systems, and administers and coordinates all data and word processing procurements and activities.

The Division of Agency Accounting has department-wide responsibilities for fiscal integrity. Functions include appropriation accounting, revenue receipts and deposit, property control, GAAP reporting, coordination of Office of Administration audits and negotiations of approved federal indirect cost rates.



Three financial offices — General Office, Resource Management and Land Management — were established to handle the fiscal operations for the Department. These offices are structured to maintain a strong programmatic relationship with the four main functional entities — establishing and controlling divisional budgets; reviewing, approving and processing all spending and payment requests; pre-auditing documents for completeness and compliance to departmental, state and federal accounting requirements; and, reconciling department financial status and providing management information on a timely basis.

The responsibility for administering DOC licensing and permit programs falls to the Office of Administration. The Licensing and Permits Section processes close to two million sport and commercial licenses and permits annually, nearly 800,000 of which are sport fishing licenses.

Office of Planning and Development

The Office of Planning and Development is responsible for providing coordination of and technical support for Department programs. Services provided by the office include capital improvement budgeting and execution, planning and design, land acquisition and engineering.

During 1988, the Division of Planning coordinated the Department's response to a number of controversial issues by achieving an out-of-court settlement with a drainage district whose activities threatened the Lower Cache River Natural Area; determining which of two local districts should receive the Perry Farm near Kankakee for a community park; and applying for national scenic river designation for the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River near Danville. The Division also coordinated the DOC's efforts to achieve an environmentally sensitive improvement of Rt. 2 through Castle Rock State Park and the Department's involvement in Illinois' unsuccessful attempt to become the location of the Superconducting Super Collider.

The Five-Year Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was submitted to the National Park Service in 1988 with a wetlands component now required by the 1986 Federal Emergency Wetlands Resources Act. Wetlands planning was also facilitated by completion of the Illinois portion of the National Wetlands Inventory.

The Division provided staff support for the new Interagency Work Group on Recreation and Tourism, represented the Department on the Economic Development Sub-Cabinet, chaired the Interagency Railbanking Task Force and represented the Department on the reactivated Bikeways Council. A grant from DCCA allowed the Division to initiate increased Department efforts to market lodges, sites and facilities. Division involvement continued in Park & Conservation Fund and Build Illinois projects, such as the Eagle Creek Lodge, under construction, and efforts to induce private resort development at Rock Cut State Park. New or enhanced program efforts were initiated for the Corps of Engineers Environmental Management Program to improve habitat in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, to develop greenways in Illinois and to provide safe and environmentally appropriate All Terrain Vehicle opportunities.

The Division of Technical Services is responsible for acquiring land for new and/or expanded sites; providing specialized engineering services for development, maintenance and operation of facilities, and technical assistance on a variety of programs including public health and safety; development of land maps providing graphic illustrations of land owned by DOC; and administration of four state and one federal grant programs: Open Space Land Acquisition Program, Boat Access Area Construction Program, the Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund, Local Government Snowmobile Grant Program, and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

During Fiscal Year 1988, 67 parcels of land were acquired at 28 sites totaling 10,615 acres at a cost of \$5,962,190. In addition, six parcels were gifted or transferred, totalling 260 acres with a value of \$177,500.

Over 62 per cent of the 67 parcels purchased are significant Natural Areas and appear on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Among the largest acquisition ever undertaken by Department staff was the fee purchase of 5,823 acres in Hamilton/Jefferson counties from the Tennessee Valley Authority for \$1,800,000. Smaller, but highly significant areas acquired, were the 160 acre addition to the Oak Valley Eagle Refuge in Rock Island County and Spring Hill Farm Fen in McHenry County.

During FY '88, the Engineering Section continued work on a capital construction program through the Capital Development Board that totaled nearly \$100 million. A few of the significant capital accomplishments included: major renovations were substantially or totally completed at our present lodge system at Giant City, Pere Marquette, Starved Rock and White Pines State Parks; completed and opened Golconda Marina; began construction of the North Point Marina and Lake Shelbyville resort; completed Illinois Beach Lodge restoration program; and completed 11 road projects in conjunction with Department of Transportation.

The Engineering Section also is responsible for technical assistance to Department sites, consisting of evaluating problems and recommending solutions regarding operation, maintenance and repairs of physical facilities.

The "Build Illinois" program awarded nearly \$3 million to 33 local government units under the Illinois Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program. These grants provide up to 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs in acquiring or developing "close to home" public outdoor recreation lands.



Construction began on the North Point Marina, pictured above in an artist's rendering, in 1988. Construction also got underway on the Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek conference center and resort at Lake Shelbyville in 1988. Both projects are "Build Illinois" projects.

Office of Land Management and Enforcement

The Office of Land Management and Enforcement oversees the functions of the Divisions of Land Management, Law Enforcement and Special Services.

These divisions are responsible for providing visitors with quality outdoor recreational opportunities on public land, as well as enforcing regulations to protect the state's natural resources and ensuring the public's safety. Additionally, the office provides support services for other divisions within the Department.

The Division of Land Management manages property owned or leased by the Department of Conservation to meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect sensitive natural heritage resources. Currently, the division manages more than 350 sites totaling approximately 374,000 acres — 81,000 acres of which are water surface acres used for fishing and other water-related activities. Sites are managed to ensure safety and security for park visitors. Program emphasis is on providing maximum opportunities for recreation, while ensuring that natural resources are preserved for present and future generations.

The Division of Land Management provides training courses for site staff to aid in ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors to state facilities, and utilizes various volunteer groups and individuals to assist staff in providing programs at sites. Volunteers are used as Campground Hosts at nearly every campground managed by the Department, while "Friends" groups are used to assist in the operation, maintenance and interpretation of several sites. In 1988, the Division of Land Management recorded nearly 2,400 hours of volunteer services.

The Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations which protect the state's natural resources and ensure the safety of persons engaged in outdoor recreation. CPOs enforce statutes pertaining to hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, endangered species, ginseng harvesting, and timber buying and transportation. Conservation Police Officers have full police authority statewide.

CPOs also disseminate information about conservation code provisions through public appearances at schools, sportsmen's clubs and civic organizations.



The Division of Land Management manages more than 350 sites totaling more than 374,000 acres of recreational lands. These lands, such as Lake Murphysboro State Park, pictured here, provide recreational opportunities for approximately 34 million visitors annually.

CPOs are kept abreast of continuing changes in statutes and enforcement procedures through carefully planned and professionally implemented training programs and seminars. Acquired skills, such as firearm proficiency and self-defense tactics are practiced and maintained.

The Safety Education Unit administers and promotes boating, hunting and snowmobile safety education programs mandated by law. The success of the Safety Education Program depends upon the efforts of approximately 1,700 Department-certified volunteer instructors.

The Division of Special Services handles administration and agreements, concessions and lease management, procurement and operations, a heavy equipment program and the Illinois Conservation Corps. Each of these sections provides services that enable the other divisions to fulfill their obligations.

The Administration and Agreements Section provides internal assistance to the Department's field divisions with land leases, utility license agreements, encroachment resolution, annexations, hydroelectric leases, land use permits, rights of way, agricultural land management, and preparation of reports and correspondence. The intent of this range of services is to provide field staff with a rapid response to problems and to ensure that the interests of the Department are protected in fiscal and legal transactions. Over 1,000 license agreements, land use permits and similar instruments are currently in force.

Concessions and Lease Management staff handle the contracts for approximately 100 park concessionaires. In addition, the section manages 200 residential/commercial leases, and conducts lease inspections and demolition contracts for the Agency.

The Procurement and Operations Section coordinates purchasing and warehousing supplies and equipment for future use.

The Division's Heavy Equipment Section responds to maintenance needs and emergencies at state-managed areas throughout Illinois. Typical projects include building of levees for waterfowl management, construction of fish ponds, road and ditch maintenance and brush removal projects associated with wildlife habitat management.

The Illinois Conservation Corps, modeled after the Depression Era's Civilian Conservation Corps, provides meaningful employment for youths and young adults. Crews hired under the program work on park rehabilitation, wildlife habitat improvement, disaster relief, and other conservation and natural resource management work throughout the state.



Office of Resource Management

The Office of Resource Management oversees the functions of the Divisions of Fisheries, Forest Resources, Natural Heritage and Wildlife Resources.

About 1.5 million anglers fish 44 million days in Illinois each year, making fishing one of the most popular outdoor activities in the state. Sport fishermen contribute to the state's economy by spending about \$1 billion annually pursuing their sport in Illinois. There are more than 1.5 million acres of surface water in Illinois. Resource management by the Division of Fisheries involves sampling fish populations, conducting creel censuses and angler surveys, analyzing water quality, controlling aquatic weeds, manipulating water levels, producing the proper sizes and species of fish for stocking purposes, and when necessary, eradicating undesirable fish populations.

The Division of Fisheries also manages the unique sport and commercial fishery of Illinois' one million acre portion of Lake Michigan. An excellent sport fishery is present for yellow perch, smelt and several species of salmon and trout in this heavily urbanized area. In addition, a limited entry commercial fishery for perch and chubs landed about 300,000 pounds of fish last year.

Excluding Lake Michigan, Illinois has about 85,700 impoundments totaling more than 250,000 acres. Most of these lakes and ponds are man-made, requiring intensive management to provide good fishing. Because the Department's priority is on waters that provide the greatest recreational opportunities, management emphasis is on state-owned waters, then by publicly-owned waters, followed by privately-owned waters. During fiscal 1988, biological surveys and investigations were conducted on 40,146 acres of state waters (130 lakes) and on 20,294 acres of public waters (151 lakes). Management services also were provided for 11,677 acres of private waters (242 lakes).

More than 13,000 miles of streams totaling over 256,500 acres flow through Illinois. Although most of these streams continue to support diverse fisheries, many are polluted with silt, sewage and toxic substances and about one-third of the stream miles has been ditched or otherwise altered. Because preservation and enhancement of habitat is crucial to Illinois' stream fishery, the Division of Fisheries reviews proposed construction projects that may be detrimental to fisheries resources and provides technical management and counseling to mitigate adverse impacts of projects that physically alter streams or rivers.

During 1988, statewide stream basin surveys were completed in the Mackinaw River basin and on tributaries of the lower Ohio River. There were over 100 additional fish collections on more than 2,000 miles of streams including 58 fishery monitoring surveys. Commercial fishing activities were monitored and commercial catch data were collected. During calendar year 1987, 22 fish kills were reported in which more than 369,802 fish valued at \$43,241 were killed.

The Illinois Fish Hatchery System is made up of three hatcheries. During fiscal year 1988, a total of 59,006,610 fish of 19 species were stocked into 104 state waters (35,852 acres), 143 public waters (24,278 acres), 293 private and organizational waters (1,419 acres), eight streams (158 acres), the Illinois portion of Lake Michigan (976,640 acres) and the three reservoirs (54,580 acres). The state's Hatchery System produced 28.2 million of these fish (18 species), while the others were obtained from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatcheries or through trades with other states.

Through the Rural Community Fire Protection grant program, the Division of Forest Resources helps Illinois small towns and fire protection districts upgrade their fire fighting capabilities. One use to which grant money can be put is converting federal excess vehicles such as this one for fire fighting duties. Last year, grants were awarded to 23 Illinois communities.



The Division of Forest Resources promotes sound land and forest conservation practices on both private and public lands. Forests once embraced an estimated 14 million acres in Illinois. Today, nearly 4.5 million forested acres continue to comprise an important economic and aesthetic resource.

The well-being of Illinois is reliant on the health of the forest resources. These forests contribute to the social and economic well-being of our society presently and for the future. The division strives to achieve, through good forest management, the wise use of this renewable resource.

Efforts directed at reforestation, management, protection and education ensure the dividends we receive from Illinois forests will be here for our descendants to enjoy. Education activities are stressed throughout the year for school children of all ages. Activities such as Arbor Day, classroom talks and demonstrations are provided to increase the youngster's knowledge about conserving our forest resources. Programs are also offered to landowners at forestry field days and through fair exhibits to increase their knowledge and perception of forestry.

More than 3.7 million seedlings were grown at the States' nurseries in 1988. When planted, these seedlings will yield 5,600 acres of trees. Healthy forest stands are necessary in stabilizing Illinois' rich soil and in preserving air and water quality. Forestland also provides food and cover for many wildlife species and can help moderate the effects of weather. In 1988, 3,500 acres of forestland received specific assistance for the management of wildlife habitat.

The Division works closely with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Natural History Survey and the University of Illinois in the detection and surveillance of forest insects and disease.

Prevention is the prime consideration of the Division of Forest Resources in protecting Illinois' 8.5 million acres of forests and watershed from wildfires. The Division has 498 Memorandums of Understanding with local rural fire departments and is the Illinois caretaker of Smokey the Bear. Smokey makes appearances at schools, parades and other activities to spread the word of wildfire prevention to thousands of children and adults annually. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Division provides federal excess equipment to rural fire departments. During 1988, seven items of equipment were obtained for rural fire protection. In addition, the Rural Community Fire Protection Grant program provided cost-share funds to 23 rural fire departments in the amount of \$113,000 to assist in the improvement of equipment and training of those departments.

The Division of Forest Resources oversees the rural and urban forest management program. The Illinois Forestry Development Act of 1983 provides an economic incentive for forest landowners to practice wise forest management and to encourage forest production. Under the Act, forest management plans are written which enable landowners to sign up for the cost-sharing program to increase the quality and quantity of the forest resource base in Illinois. In 1988, over 340 landowners received cost-share assistance totaling over \$340,000.

Furthermore, forested acres owned by Illinois landowners are examined and inventoried by the Division of Forest Resources. In 1988, 9,900 assists to forest landowners were provided covering 136,000 acres of forestland. Forest Management Plans were written to provide guidelines for 965 landowners on 50,500 acres of forestland.

Technical assistance and training is provided to communities to better protect and enhance the urban forest along city streets, community parks and corridors. These forests are owned by counties, municipalities, park districts and by a wide range of private owners. This sometimes forgotten forest resource is important to the communities by providing a substantial contribution to the quality of urban life. During 1988, 52 communities received Tree City USA awards, recognizing their outstanding tree management programs in urban settings. The Division also works closely with community leaders in dealing with wood debris disposal.

More than five percent of the Illinois job market is provided by the forest industry with a total payroll of \$1.1 billion. More than \$6 billion worth of forestry products are sent to other states and countries. Additionally, Illinois forests provide erosion control, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and aesthetic values.

Forest landowners are assisted by District Foresters in the utilization and marketing of timber. The forest products industry in Illinois depends on the continual supply of raw material for forest landowners and the development of viable markets for forest products. Additionally, 135 marketing, utilization and resource based information assists were provided to the forest industry of Illinois. In cooperation with the State of Missouri and the U.S. Forest Service, the Division sponsored the Illinois/Missouri Timber Export Trade Show. The Division of Forest Resources authorized 1,024 buyers, bonded under the Timber Buyers Licensing Act, to purchase timber in Illinois in 1988.

Activities of the Division of Natural Heritage are directed at the conservation of nature in the broad sense. Special efforts are made to protect, manage and restore natural communities such as prairies and to maintain healthy populations of all native plants and animals. Intensive efforts are also made to conserve our endangered and threatened species. Its goal is to ensure that Illinois' natural heritage remains available for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Programs directed at protecting Illinois' natural heritage include an avian, mammal, natural heritage awareness, nature preserves, natural areas, natural heritage database and native plant conservation programs. Natural Heritage biologists monitor populations of endangered species, conduct surveys of plants and nongame wildlife and implement management practices on natural areas, nature preserves and for nongame wildlife and endangered species.

The nongame wildlife checkoff fund, supported by voluntary donations, is administered by the Division and is a unique way of funding natural heritage projects. Through the checkoff, Illinois taxpayers can voluntarily contribute state income tax refund dollars to benefit nongame wildlife conservation.

Last year, \$206,000 was collected from the nongame checkoff program, with direct contributors to the fund providing an additional \$10,000. Through FY 1988, the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund supported 120 projects, including the Bald Eagle Appreciation Days and bluebird workshops.

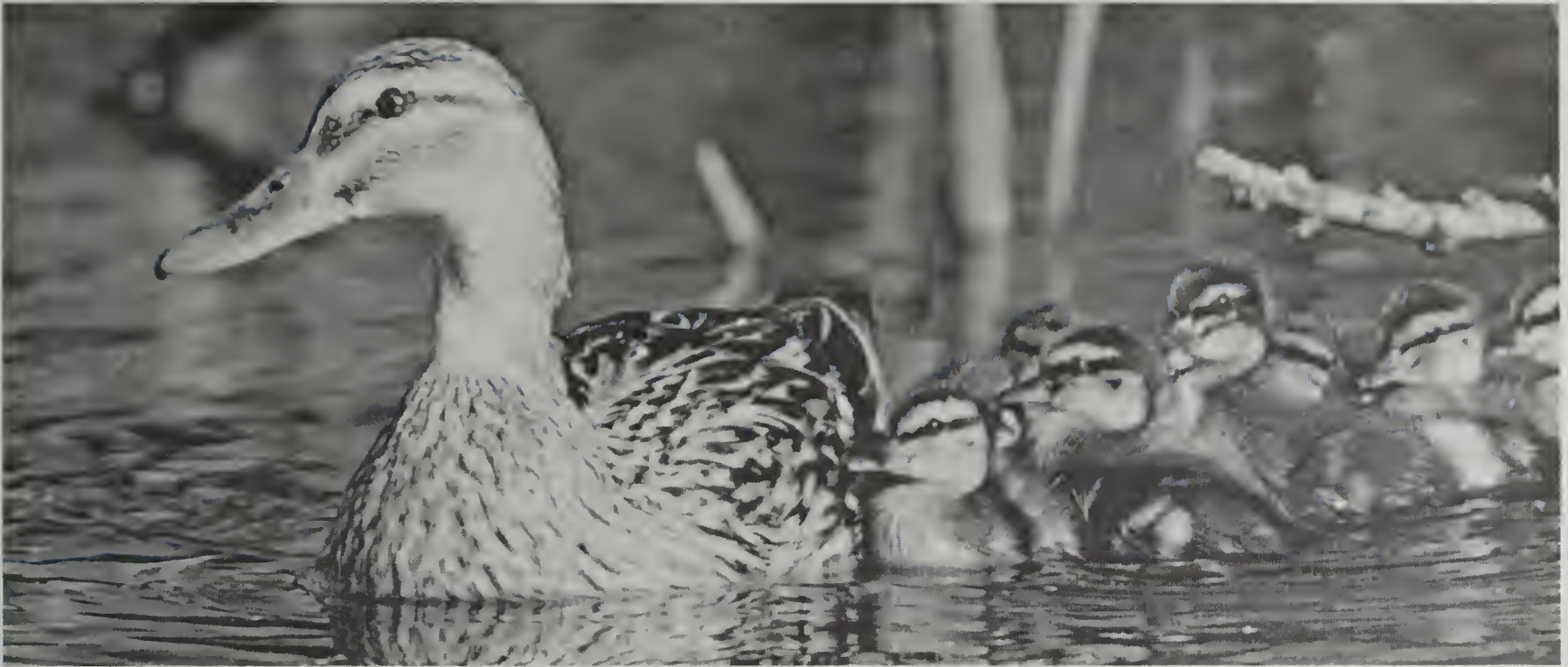
Other programs include the Chicago Peregrine Project, which released 10 chicks at Illinois Beach State Park in 1988. The first two peregrine chicks since 1951 were hatched atop a downtown Chicago skyscraper in the summer of 1988.

The Assessment of the Status of Mussels in the Little Wabash River, the Breeding Bird Atlas (a compilation of the distribution of all birds that breed in Illinois), and the Determination of Summer Distribution and Habitat Utilization of the Indiana Bat are just a few more of the projects that receive funds from the nongame checkoff program.

The Division of Natural Heritage, in a joint effort with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, administers the Endangered Species Protection Act, which mandates protection for threatened and endangered plants and adds the protection of threatened animal species to the Department of Conservation's sphere of responsibility. In addition, the Act requires review of the state list of threatened and endangered species for revision at least every five years.

The Act also establishes a public policy of state and local government agencies consulting with the DOC to determine whether actions contemplated by various government bodies are likely to jeopardize the survival of any listed species or adversely modify essential habitat used by listed species.

An ongoing function of the Endangered Species Program is to provide input and comment on Department management plans for state properties, and to review Department of Transportation and Corps of Engineers permit applications and proposed construction activities. Dozens of these applications and proposals were evaluated last year to determine what effects the proposals could have on threatened and endangered species. There also is a permit system for the possession of endangered species and endangered species products.



The Division works closely with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in the management and protection of lands in the Illinois Nature Preserves System. That System includes 162 preserves, 67 of which are owned by the Department of Conservation. The Division also administers the Natural Heritage Landmark program, giving recognition to private landowners who voluntarily preserve natural areas in their ownership. In FY 88, there were 82 registered Natural Heritage Landmarks encompassing over 2,500 acres of high quality natural lands.

Approximately 400,000 residents hunted in Illinois in fiscal year 1988 and spent nearly 9 million recreational days afield in pursuit of various game species. Hunting not only satisfied a recreational need, but also contributed an estimated \$298 million to the economic well-being of the state.

The Division of Wildlife Resources implements professional management practices benefiting the wildlife in the state in the forest game, furbearer, waterfowl and upland game programs. Biologists determine the population status and distribution of various wildlife species, establish management goals for each species, identify problems and seek solutions.

Forest Game Program personnel conduct investigations on deer, turkeys, ruffed grouse, and gray and fox squirrels. In 1988, the state held its 19th spring firearm turkey season with over 11,000 permits issued and 3,322 birds harvested. In 1988, Illinois held its fifth fall archery turkey season and 264 turkeys were harvested in the counties open for archery turkey hunting. Firearm deer hunters harvested a total of 64,082 deer and archery hunters harvested 12,949 deer in 1988.

With responsibility for managing the furbearer resource in Illinois, the Furbearer Program includes all activities related to the development, supervision and investigations concerning furbearing mammals that are hunted or trapped in Illinois. Illinois fur takers harvested nearly 628,032 pelts valued at \$5.6 million during the 1987-88 fur season. The program is also responsible for coordination of trapper education efforts which has certified approximately 2,000 students since its inception.

The Waterfowl Program is responsible for coordination of management efforts on waterfowl and wetland resources in Illinois. In 1988, 87,067 waterfowl hunters expended 783,158 days afield and harvested an estimated 492,078 ducks and 8,961 coots during the regular duck season. Waterfowl hunters also harvested 77,331 geese during the regular goose season.

The Upland Game Program is responsible for the preservation, enhancement and wise use of rabbits, bobwhite quail, ringnecked pheasants and other upland game species. The Private Land Wildlife Habitat Management Program works to increase the amount of permanent wildlife habitat on private land which increases wildlife numbers. Assistance to private land owners also is provided through the Acres for Wildlife program, which provided technical assistance to approximately 3,000 landowners during the reporting year and has enrolled almost 218,000 acres since its inception. Private landowners were provided 525,000 trees and shrubs and 2,800 pounds of native warm season grass seed through this program.

Hunting opportunities are provided to the public on approximately 569,000 acres of state and federal lands in Illinois. The Department operates a Controlled Hunting Project on 16 sites, which provided 46,189 hunter trips in 1988. Pheasants utilized for this purpose are raised at DOC's three game farms. A fourth game farm, the James C. Helfrich Propagation Center, is currently under construction and is expected to be in operation in 1990.



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